



NATIONAL
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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 21, 2014

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

Virginia experienced slightly cooler than normal temperatures and scattered rain showers this week. Temperatures ranged between the 40s to the upper 80s, and total precipitation was around one tenth or less of inch in most places. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. The dry weather was ideal for the corn harvest, but farmers were still behind on the harvest for this time of year; in some areas the corn moisture has been too high for harvesting which contributed to the delay. At some locations, late hay was being cut. Livestock producers worry that there will be a lack of hay this winter as hay stocks are lower than normal. While the dry weather has been ideal for harvesting, it has contributed to delays in planting small grains, cover crops, and hay. Other farming activities for the week included fall calving, spraying defoliants on cotton, digging peanuts, and harvesting tobacco.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 21, 2014	9	25	59	7
September 14, 2014	1	19	67	13
September 7, 2014	2	26	67	5
August 31, 2014	2	25	64	9
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 21, 2014	8	24	64	4
September 14, 2014	2	22	72	4
September 7, 2014	3	28	67	2
August 31, 2014	3	26	68	3

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**

Virginia Tech

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	7	25	54	14
Soybeans	0	6	20	62	12
Tobacco, Burley	1	1	39	50	9
Cotton	0	0	2	81	17
Peanuts	0	0	3	87	10
Livestock	1	4	23	60	12
Pasture and Range	5	11	30	47	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	6	37	47	10
Hay, Other	4	13	37	42	4
Apples, All	0	2	38	55	5
Grapes, All	1	12	31	47	9

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Bolls Opening	56	38	61	62
Cotton Harvested	0	0	0	1
Peanuts Dug	5	0	11	5
Corn Dough	97	94	100	100
Corn Dented	91	86	95	94
Corn Mature	76	69	78	81
Corn for Grain Harvested	38	24	51	50
Corn for Silage Harvested	85	72	79	82
Soybeans Setting Pods	96	87	96	99
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	18	8	20	27
Winter Wheat Seeded	6	1	6	9
Barley Seeded	13	3	17	17
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	68	57	78	67
Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut	83	66	95	94
Burley Tobacco Stripped	60	37	73	73
All Apples Harvested	40	38	n/a	n/a

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING September 21, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To Sept 20	Mar. 1 to Sept 20 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	55	79	53	64	-3	n/a	n/a	0.10	1.05	-1.45	35.04	2.90
Norfolk	76	64	80	62	70	-3	n/a	n/a	0.03	7.06	4.32	39.48	4.55
Richmond	80	60	85	56	70	0	n/a	n/a	0.00	0.55	-2.06	26.22	-6.55
Roanoke	73	58	77	55	66	-2	n/a	n/a	0.13	1.14	-1.45	29.71	-2.23
Wash/Dulles	74	50	79	45	62	-6	n/a	n/a	0.01	0.22	-2.22	36.41	5.56

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We had temperatures in the 70's and 80's. Night temperatures were in the 50's. Some farmers are saying it is drying up and we need rain.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan Poore)

Dry but temperatures remain in 70's for daytime, 60 at night. An unexpected passing shower Friday morning - maybe 1 to 2 tenths across the county. A lot of corn is ready for harvest but moisture on corn still running too high for harvest.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Still very dry. No rain. Cooler days and nights have slowed down the soil evaporation process however.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It has been a dry week; more progress on corn harvest, some beans have been harvested, and a lot of hay has been mown and/or made this past week. We really could use a little rain as a good bit of hay has been planted and some small grain and conditions are pretty dry.

LOUISA AG (Steve Hopkins)

Stockpile growth at this point will be very limited resulting in early feeding of livestock for most this winter. Hay supplies are fair, but long winter feeding could lead to hay shortages before spring. Corn and soybean crops were very good with harvest going well with dry conditions; however, small grain seeding could be delayed because of dry conditions.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Apple and wine grape harvest is underway. Grasslands are being clipped and summer annual grasses being cut and baled.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Dry conditions prevailed during the week, resulting in a depletion of soil moisture. Double crop soybeans, pastures, and hay fields are showing stress due to a lack of soil moisture. The dry weather allowed producers to make excellent progress harvesting the corn crop, and yields overall have been better than expected.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Corn harvest in full swing. Yields are very good to excellent. Soybeans received good rains last week that will take most to maturity. Yields expected to be above average. Cover crop planting begins. Land prep for small grains begins. Most veggies are done. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins ready for harvest. Late hay cutting begins.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Gray Leaf Spot has shown up in several area corn fields of susceptible varieties. Rapid dry down has been thwarted only by aggressive chopping and ensiling.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Soybeans are beginning to yellow and drop leaves. Flue cued tobacco harvest is going steady and bales are being taken to the buying stations. Fall calving is well underway. Some late hay is being cut as well.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn harvest is widespread across the county now. Yields are mostly reported as good and better than expected. There are some areas of low yielding corn, but no yield reports yet. Soybeans look good overall. The double crop plantings are variable due to the dry weather in August and September. Most growers are trying to determine how much wheat to plant at current price offerings and all crop budgets for 2015 look very dim.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn harvest well underway with yields in the 150-200 bushel range,(very good for Southeast Virginia), if we could just get the prices up. Peanut diggers just starting with what looks like a good crop. Cotton bolls opening with some defoliation sprays going out.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Corn harvest continues after heavy rains on last week. Peanut digging will get started next week when some fields dry down. Maturity is about a week away. Small grains will also start next week following corn harvest.